



Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

All About Plants

Teacher's Outline

Grades 3-4

This is a basic outline of the "All About Plants" program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The specifics may vary according to the needs of the group, the weather and unforeseen situations.

Time: 1 hour

SOL's Addressed: SCI.3.5, SCI.3.6, SCI.3.8, SCI.3.10, SCI.4.4, SCI.4.5 & SCI.4.8

Overview: Naturalist will lead students on a walk exploring the grounds and surrounding woods at Walney Visitor Center (Dress for the weather!). Students will learn to identify at least three different plant types (e.g., mosses, ferns, gymnosperms, angiosperms) and discuss plant anatomy, reproduction and life cycles. Group will discuss the role of plants in ecosystems and food webs, their interdependency with animals and their function in cleaning the air, cycling water and building soil. Finally, the group will discuss the value of plants for humans, the impacts of human activities on plants and the importance of conservation.

Outline:

1. Welcome to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and program preview
2. Students identify plants and their parts (test student knowledge); also discussion of plant reproduction and lifecycles.
3. Field exploration focusing on:
 - a. plants and the systems they're in;
 - b. plant & animal interactions;
 - c. plant roles in soil building, air cleaning and the water cycle.
4. Humans & Plants:
 - a. plant uses (their value);
 - b. human land uses and its impacts;
 - c. invasive plants and animals degrading the ecosystems;
 - d. how we can help (our role in conservation).
5. Wrap-up – Thanks for coming!